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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02
ACDA-07 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /095 W
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O 212140Z AUG 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3108
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9475

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT: PARA 5 LINE 4)

FROM USDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, UN, US
SUBJECT: LAGOS CONFERENCE: FMG POSITION ON DRAFT DECLARATION

REF: USUN 2631 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: YOUNG, MOOSE, EASUM, COOKS AND PETTERSON MET THIS EVENING (AUGUST 21) WITH NIGERIAN UN PERMREP HARRIMAN AND COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFS RS GARBA. WHILE READY TO MAKE A FEW CONCESSIONS ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION, THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NIGERIANS WANT A STRONG DECLARATION, SAY THEY HAVE CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FROM MANY WEO'S, VERY MUCH WANT US SUPPORT, AND ARE PREPARED TO FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UK IF THE LATTER DOES NOT TAKE A MORE FORTHRIGHT STAND AGAINST APARTHEID. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE HOUR-LONG MEETING, HARRIMAN (GARBA ARRIVED NEAR

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THE END OF THE DISCUSSION) NOTED THAT THE POSITION HE WAS TAKING WAS FULLY SUPPORTED BY GENERAL OBASANJO. HE SAID OBASANJO'S OPENING SPEECH TOMORROW MORNING WOULD REFLECT THIS. HE SAID THAT THE FMG DID NOT WANT TO DEAL WITH THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS A GROUP, BUT AS INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS. IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID NIGERIA VERY MUCH WANTED TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE US IN MOVING AHEAD WITH THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE.

3. WE DID NOT GET INTO A BARGAINING SESSION ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION, BUT DID HEAR OUT HARRIMAN'S PRESENTATION OF THE FMG'S REACTION TO THE AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY THE FIVE. SPECIFICALLY, THE FMG WILL NOT DEPART SIGNIFICANTLY FROM REFERENCES TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AS A "MINORITY REGIME" OR "RACIST REGIME." HARRIMAN MAINTAINED THAT THE US HAS SUPPORTED UN RESOLUTIONS IN WHICH SIMILAR TERMINOLOGY WAS USED.

4. HARRIMAN AGREED TO DELETE OR COMPLETELY RE-PHRASE PARA 17, AND TO ACCEPT OUR WORDING FOR THE FIRST PART OF PARA 16. BUT HE SAID THE FMG DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY WE COULD NOT SUPPORT LANGUAGE CALLING FOR ASSISTANCE TO STATES WHICH HAVE SUFFERED FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION AGENST APARTHEID (E.G., MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIA). HE SAID IT WAS POINTLESS TO REFER GENERALLY TO COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN THREATENED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER FOR THEIR "OPPOSITION " TO CONFIDENTIAL

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APARTHEID (ALL STATES, HE SAID, OPPOSE APARTHEID).

5. OUR BIGGEST PROBLEMS ARE LIKELY TO CENTER AROUND PARAS 20 (ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION) AND 22 (ON INVESTMENTS AND LOANS). HARRIMAN STATED THAT THE AFRICANS WANT A TOTAL CESSATION OF ALL FORMS OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. AS FOR INVESTMENTS AND LOANS, HE SAID, "WE ARE PREPARED TO PUT THE WORD "NEW" BEFORE INVESTMENTS."

6. HARRIMAN ALSO BROUGHT UP OUR WISH TO DELETE THE WORDS "TO SELF-DETERMINATION" AFTER "INALIENABLE RIGHTS." HE MAINTAINED THAT SELF-DETERMINATION "IS NOT A LOCUTION RELATED ONLY TO COLONIAL SITUATIONS."

7. HE ALSO MAINTAINED THAT THE AFRICANS SAW NO VALID REASON TO DELETE THE REFERENCE IN PARA 24 TO "LIBERATION GROUPS."

8. COMMENT: THERE MAY BE ROOM FOR SOME COMPROMISES ON THE WORDING OF THE DECLARATION, BUT, IF THIS TALK WITH HARRIMAN IS ANY INDICATION, THE NIGERIANS FEEL THEY HAVE PREPARED AND FOUGHT FOR A RELATIVELY RESTRAINED DOCUMENT AND ARE NOT INCLINED TO MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIVE ALTERATIONS - UNLESS WE CAN GIVE THEM

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SOME COMPLELLING REASON TO DO SO. AGAIN, THEY PARTICULARLY
WANT OUR COOPERATION, A REFLECTION OF THEIR MARKEDLY IMPROVED
ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US (HARRIMAN SAID OBASANJO STRESSES THIS
POINT AND WANTS TO INVITE PRESIDENT CARTER TO VISIT NIGERIA NEXT
YEAR). AND THEY ARE APPARENTLY READY TO GO TO THE MAT WITH THE
BRITISH ON THE APARTHEID ISSUE, HARRIMAN SAID, "IF THE BRITISH
ARE NOT READY TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION, WE ARE PREPARED TO
LEAVE THE COMMONWEALTH." HE STRESSED THAT OBASANJO HAS AGREED
TO THIS. THE BRITISH, HARRIMAN ADDED, WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE
BETWEEN NIGERIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.
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